Dockets Management Branch HFA-305 FDA 5630 Fisher Ln, Rm 1061 Rockville, MD 20852

7055 *99 AUG 23 P1:20

19 Aug, 1999

RE: 98N-1230, 96P-0418, 97P-0197

Dear FDA,

I am writing in reference to the practice of forced molting in layer hens. I am completely opposed to this practice for a number of reasons. First, I consider the practice to be inhumane and cruel to the hens. Second, I believe that the stress imposed on the animals increases the public health risk of eating their eggs, because the incidence of salmonella goes up after the hens are starved and deprived of water for the forced molting.

I therefore believe that forced molting should be prohibited by law, because it promotes disease by damaging the hens' immune systems. I further believe that any farm practice which injures the health of the animals should be outlawed.

Eggs which are produced by forced-molted hens need to be labeled as such, so that consumers can avoid them if they choose to.

The petition from April 98 to ban forced molting should be granted without any more delays.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

M. Liane Salgado

2209-C Hamlet Chapel Rd

Pittsboro NC 27312

C338

968-0418



Dockets Nigmt. Branch HFA-305 FDA

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/C 338

See File Number

97P-0197/C339 96P-0418/C338